

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Rupert B. Hurley on July 24, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel Claims 14 – 23.

On page 1 of the specification, after the title, add the following abstract:

Abstract

A patch bag comprises a heat – shrinkable bag comprising tubular bag film, and a heat - shrinkable patch comprising a patch film, the patch being adhered to the bag, the patch bag having a seal which is through both patches as well as through both lay - flat sides of the bag. A process for making the bag includes sealing an inside surface of the film tubing to itself, the sealing being carried out by applying heat to each of the patch outside surfaces, the heat being applied by a first means for heating and a second means for heating, the first and second means for heating being in alignment with one another, with the patches and bag tubing therebetween during sealing.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record discloses a patch bag, but fails to disclose a patch bag comprising a heat – shrinkable

Art Unit: 1794

patch comprising a patch film adhered to the bag, the patch bag having a seal across the bottom thereof, the seal being through the patch as well as through both lay - flat sides of the bag, the seal being the only seal across the bag, and the sealed bag having a burst strength of at least 26 inches of water in a Linear Ramp Hot Burst Grease Test.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc A Patterson whose telephone number is 571-272-1497. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Marc A Patterson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794